

113. The method of claim 112, wherein the solvent comprises benzyl alcohol and ethyl acetate.

114. A method for processing microparticles to improve flowability, comprising:

(a) determining a conditioning temperature and a time period for processing the microparticles, wherein the time period is less than about 6 days, and wherein the microparticles comprise a polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(glycolic acid), poly-d,l-lactic acid, poly-l-lactic acid, and copolymers of the foregoing;

Ca (b) maintaining the microparticles at the conditioning temperature for the time period, wherein an angle of repose of the microparticles at the completion of the maintaining step is less than about 28°.

115. The method of claim 114, wherein the determining step comprises:

(i) measuring an angle of repose of the microparticles;

(ii) if the angle of repose of the microparticles is not less than about 28°, adjusting the conditioning temperature and the time period so that the angle of repose of the microparticles at the completion of the maintaining step is less than about 28°.

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Pulliam and Primary Kishore for the helpful and courteous interview conducted with the undersigned on August 6, 2002. For the convenience of the Examiner and the applicants, the above amendment incorporates the claimed subject matter from parent application number 09/748,136 into the present application. The above amendment also incorporates the comments and helpful suggestions provided by Examiners Pulliam and Kishore during the interview. Applicants wish to note that the 28° angle of repose limitation that appears in claims 103 to 115 is derived from the data that appears in Tables 1 and 2 of the present and parent applications as originally filed. Particularly, a 28° angle of repose is the largest angle (27.6° angle of repose rounded to the nearest degree) that corresponds to a Flow

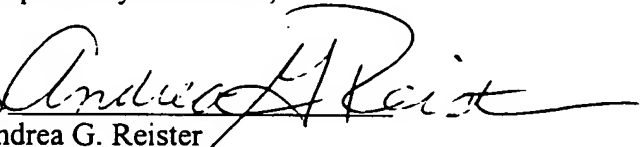
Property of "Good" or "Excellent." Microparticles having improved flowability in accordance with one aspect of the present invention are characterized by a Flow Property of Good or Excellent, and a 28° angle of repose (rounded to the nearest degree) is the largest angle achieving such improved flowability in accordance with Tables 1 and 2.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 65-115 are pending for the Examiner's consideration, with claims 65, 80, 94, 103, 107, 108, 109, and 114 being the independent claims. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments introduce no new matter, and entry is requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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